

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3872
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 16999

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, FR, US, CSCE
SUBJ: RICHER TO HEAD FRENCH DELEGATION TO BELGRADE
CONFERENCE

REFS: A. PARIS A-25, 1/15/75. B. STATE 130949.

1. QUAI INFORMS US THAT FRENCH DELEGATION TO MAIN
CSCE CONFERENCE WILL BE HEADED BY AMBASSADOR PHILLIPE
RICHER, UNTIL RECENTLY FRENCH AMBASSADOR AT HANOI.
AS REPORTED SEPTTEL, FRANCIS BEAUCHATAUD, QUAI CSCE
COORDINATOR WILL HEAD FRENCH REPRESENTATION AT THE
PREPARATORY TALKS.

2. RICHER WAS BORN IN 1923, WAS DEPORTED FOR RESIST-
ANCE ACTIVITIES FROM 43-45, IS A GRADUATE OF ST. CYR
AND ENA, AND ENTERED THE QUAI IN 1956. BESIDES PARIS
ASSIGNMENTS HE HAS HAD POSTINGS TO LAOS, ALGIER,
MOSCOW, BUCHAREST AND MOST RECENTLY--HIS FIRST AMBASS-
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ADORIAL APPOINTMENT--TO HANOI. JUDGING FROM BRIEF
CONTACT EMBOFF HAD WITH RICHER AT QUAI THIS WEEK HE
IS SLIGHT, SPRITELY, SHARP, PROBABLY TOUGH, SPEAKS
GOOD ENGLISH, HAS QUICK SENSE OF HUMOR AND SEEMS TO
LIKE AMERICANS--AT LEAST ON PERSONAL LEVEL. FURTHER
BACKGROUND WAS SUBMITTED IN THE REFERENCE D AIRGRAM.
TAKEN TOGETHER AVAILABLE MATERIAL GIVES US THE

IMPRESSION (A) THAT RICHER SHOULD BE A QUICK AND CONGENIAL, BUT AT TIMES TESTY COLLEAGUE FOR THE US DELEGATION; AND (B) THAT HE IS NOT ONE OF THE QUAI'S MOST PROMINENT DIPLOMATIC STARS. APPOINTMENT IS THEREFORE A FURTHER REFLECTION OF THE FRENCH DESIRE TO PLAY A LOW PROFILE OPTICALLY INDEPENDENT ROLE AT BELGRADE.

3. COMMENT: OUR INITIAL CONTACT WITH RICHER SUGGESTS THAT HE IS KEENLY INTERESTED IN TONE AND CONTENT OF PRESENTATIONS US WILL MAKE AT BELGRADE. WE HAVE THEREFORE SENT HIM TEXT OF THE SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CSCE COMMISSION (REF B) AND BELIEVE IT WILL BE MOST USEFUL FOR HIS EDUCATION TO HAVE PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON CSCE SOONEST, SINCE IN HIS FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH US HE IMMEDIATELY LAUNCHED INTO BANTER ABOUT "HARDHITTING" US TONE.
GAMMON

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